

The following papers concerning N. Mandela's trials at Rivonia in 1963-4 and in Pretoria in October 1962, were presented to the Institute by Joel Joffe, one of the Attorneys for the defence in the Rivonia Trial (the annotations on yellow paper are in his hand). It is intended that the originals will one day be returned to South Africa and copies have been made for that eventuality. The documents are open to any researcher and may be xeroxed.

Nelson Rolihlala Mandela was born in 1918 in the Transkei, son of a Tembu Chief. He attended a Methodist boarding school and Fort Hare College in 1938, from which he was expelled for organising a student strike. He became a mine policeman and then studied law at Witwatersrand University. In December 1952 he established the first firm of African lawyers with his friend Oliver Tambo in Johannesburg. In 1944 he joined the ANC and founded the ANC Youth League, becoming very active in the campaigns organised by them. He was served with a banning order in 1953, but continued his opposition to the SA government. He was arrested on 8 August 1962 and sentenced on 7 November 1962 to 5 years imprisonment for incitement to strike and illegal exit from the country.

At the Rivonia sabotage trial, which opened on 20 October 1963, he was charged in his position as leader of Umkonto we Sizwe (the militant wing of the liberation movement) with plotting revolution. On 12 June 1964 he was sentenced to life imprisonment, which he has served on Robben Island.

For further information see M. Benson. Nelson Mandela. Panaf, 1980.

A. Pretoria Trial, October-November 1962

- 1) Mandela's application to have the trial postponed. 15.10.62 6p. incomplete. Ms.
- 2) Mandela's application for the magistrate's recusal. 22.10.62. Ms. [He challenged the right of the court to hear the case.]
- 3) Mandela's defence at Regional Court, November 1962. In fact his address to the court in mitigation of sentence, detailing his political commitment and activities with ANC. 21p. Typescript signed by him.

B. Rivonia Trial. October 1963 - June 1964

- 1) Indictment. Supreme Court of South Africa (Transvaal Provincial Division). The state v Nelson Mandela and others. Duplicated typescript signed by Mandela. 9p.
- 2) Initial statement made by Mandela to his lawyers. Typescript on James Kantor and Partners stationary. 4p. Details of early life.
- 3) The State vs Nelson Mandela and nine others. Notes by Mandela on his life and ANC association. 9p. Ms.
- 4) Statement from the dock of Nelson Mandela, accused no. 1. Carbon typescript signed by Mandela.
- 5) Ms notes by Mandela to use if he were sentenced to death. 1p.
- 6) 3 pages in Mandela's hand crossed out referring to the tribal council called Imbizo.